

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the  
Upcoming Federal Budget**

**By: Kathleen Vance**

- Recommendation 1: That the government focus resources on **reducing poverty and inequality**.
- Recommendation 2: That the government place **nursing homes under the auspices of the Canada Health Act**.
- Recommendation 3: That the government act immediately act to reduce and **counteract climate change**.

As a private citizen, I would like my government to focus our resources on reducing poverty and inequality, ensuring adequate seniors care, and reducing and counteracting climate change.

COVID has revealed **three truths of our lives in Canada**: 1) Canadians do not suffer equally. Workers in agriculture and food processing, in health care, and in the retail sector are disproportionately exposed to this virus, as are people in care homes. Women make up the sector of the economy hardest hit by COVID to the extent that economist Armine Yalnizyan has called the resulting economic downturn a “she-cession.”

2) All Canadians depend on workers in these essential sectors.

3) The public health of Canadians cannot be separated from the health of individual Canadians. If we allow one group of Canadians to be exposed to an increased risk of COVID, we are ensuring that COVID continues to risk the health of all Canadians.

We need what Yalnizyan has referred to as a “she-covery.” We need income assistance and disability assistance programs to at least match the CERB. In addition, if employers are worried that those receiving CERB will prefer the \$2,000 to their jobs, then employers should provide higher wages and better working conditions. Care-givers of young children require **affordable, accessible daycare, and day care workers need fair wages**. COVID makes it clear that we are only as safe as our workforce, and B.C. needs to ensure that farm workers and workers in food processing have **working conditions and wages that reflect their high value to us** as food producers. To this end and because it is the just thing to do, the federal government should make available **pathways to residency and citizenship to seasonal workers to protect them from exploitation**.

**Profit-making should be removed from senior care.** We need a capital plan to build adequate accommodation for seniors who are no longer able to stay in their own homes. We should build accommodations that all of us would be content to live in, if we were fortunate enough to live long enough to require them. Current provisions to enable care-givers to work at single institutions at a union rate should be retained and strengthened. Private-public partnerships in care homes must end as it has become obvious that profits are being carved out of savings made from the exploitation of care-givers and neglect of resident care.

The writer Barbara Neely referred to “**criminal justice**” as “aptly named” meaning it is the justice which is criminal. **The state has been criminalizing, policing, judging and imprisoning many racialized and indigenous persons, people without homes, people who behave erratically in public, people who express sex and gender in ways that are not yet sanctioned, protestors, and others at great expense. I prefer that this funding be applied to programs that originate in the communities affected, by all those affected, to strengthen those**

**communities.** Only then – rather than with more police, more courts, and more prisons - will I feel safer and more secure.

We need to immediately address climate change and **transition away from fossil fuels.** I live on the coast of B.C., so nothing the federal government does will help me if I am under water or on fire, so climate change must remain a top priority of the government.

I am a private citizen. I expect my government to have the bureaucracy to cost out the preferences of its citizens. Likewise, I expect the civil service to ensure that money is wisely spent, not wasted, and solely spent to benefit the public and not to increase the wealth of a few. The federal government needs to ensure a fair and equitable tax system, not one that enables the very rich to accumulate more personal wealth at the expense of the rest of Canadians. We need a wealth tax and a tax on top income.

**If I have to pay higher taxes to support any of the programs I have suggested, I would eagerly do so. That's what taxes are for.**